

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A device for securing and adjusting laces, cords, and strings, comprising: a body having a top surface, a bottom surface, and a perimeter, said body provided with at least two apertures positioned laterally on opposite sides of a center of said body, said body further being provided with at least one aperture positioned near the center of said body, said at least one central aperture comprising at least four sides and forming at least two wedge angles facing each lateral aperture.
2. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the configuration of said perimeter is selected from the group consisting of: oval, rectangular, trapezoidal, circular, polygonal, and irregular curve-shape.
3. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said lateral apertures and central aperture form a longitudinal axis.
4. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein the configuration of said lateral apertures is selected from the group consisting of: oval, circular, triangular, square, and rectangular.
5. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said top surface and said bottom surface are separated by a constant depth.
6. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said top surface and said bottom surface are separated by a variable depth.

7. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said central aperture comprises four sides of equal length forming the shape of a diamond.

8. (original) The device according to claim 7, wherein said central aperture further comprises:

- (a) two congruent wedge angles opposite each other on a horizontal axis; and
- (b) two congruent angles opposite each other on a vertical axis.

9. (original) The device according to claim 8, wherein said congruent wedge angles are from 5° to 110°.

10. (original) The device according to claim 8, wherein said congruent wedge angles are more than 10° and less than 95°.

11. (original) The device according to claim 8, wherein said congruent wedge angles are more than 15° and less than 80°.

12. (original) The device according to claim 8, wherein said congruent wedge angles are from 20° to 60°.

13. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said central aperture further comprises:

- (a) four sides having unequal lengths forming the shape of a quadrilateral;
- (b) two congruent wedge angles opposite each other on a horizontal axis;
- (c) two non-congruent angles opposite each other on a vertical axis.

14. (original) The device according to claim 3, wherein said longitudinal axis is positioned at a same distance from a first edge and a second edge of said body.

15. (original) The device according to claim 3, wherein said longitudinal axis is positioned at a different distance from said first edge and said second edge of said body.

16. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said body further comprises at least two triangular-shaped central apertures positioned near the center of said body.

17. (original) The device according to claim 16, wherein said triangular-shaped central apertures comprise congruent wedge angles measuring within a range from 5° to 110°.

18. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said body further comprises at least two cone-shaped central apertures positioned near the center of said body.

19. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said central aperture further comprises an inner wall that is perpendicular to said top or bottom surfaces.

20. (original) The device according to claim 1, wherein said central aperture further comprises an inner wall that forms an acute angle with one of said top or bottom surfaces.